

2 Corinthians



Power in Weakness

Trustworthy

2 Corinthians 1:15-2:4

Background

Accusations against Paul

- 1. Sin in his life**
- 2. He is manipulating you – you can't trust him**
- 3. He is a false teacher**

Paul launches a defense

**#1st -- I have a clear conscience–
2 Corinthians 1:12**

We can say with confidence and a clear conscience that we have lived with a God-given holiness and sincerity in all our dealings.

We have depended on God's grace, not on our own human wisdom. That is how we have conducted ourselves before the world, and especially toward you.

**Trials do not just build
character, they reveal
it.**

**It's not how we make
mistakes, but how we
correct them that
defines us. Rachel Wolchin**

#2 - My life matches God's message-

2 Corinthians 1:17-20

Can people count on your word?

17 You may be asking why I changed my plan. Do you think I make my plans carelessly? Do you think I am like people of the world who say “Yes” when they really mean “No”? 18 As surely as God is faithful, our word to you does not waver between “Yes” and “No.”

19 For Jesus Christ, the Son of God, does not waver between “Yes” and “No.” He is the one whom Silas, Timothy, and I preached to you, and as God’s ultimate “Yes,” he always does what he says.

20 For all of God's promises have been fulfilled in Christ with a resounding "Yes!" And through Christ, our "Amen" (which means "Yes") ascends to God for his glory. 2 Corinthians 1:20

People with good intentions make promises but people with good character keep them.

21 It is God who enables us, along with you, to stand firm for Christ. He has commissioned us, 22 and he has identified us as his own by placing the Holy Spirit in our hearts as the first installment that guarantees everything he has promised us.

2 Corinthians 1:21-22

It is God who enables us

Installment - Greek – Arrabon –
a pledge, an engagement ring

#3 - What I do is motivated by love – 2 Cor. 1:23-24

23 Now I call upon God as my witness that I am telling the truth. The reason I didn't return to Corinth was to spare you from a severe rebuke. 24 But that does not mean we want to dominate you by telling you how to put your faith into practice.

We want to work together with you so you will be full of joy, for it is by your own faith that you stand firm.

2 Corinthians 1:23-24

4 I wrote that letter in great anguish, with a troubled heart and many tears. I didn't want to grieve you, but I wanted to let you know how much love I have for you.

2 Corinthians 2:1-4 NLT

**It doesn't help the body of Christ
– by judging one another**

**John 13:35 – People will know
you are a Christian by how you
love them**

Personal application:

Do I have a clear conscience? If not, how do I need to clear it?

Does my life match my message?

How can my life be motivated by love for others?